

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, please add a new Section entitled "Parent Case Text" – and new paragraph [0002] as follows:

Parent Case Text

[0002] This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/455,032, filed March 14, 2003.

In paragraph [0026], please replace the last sentence as follows:

In contrast to previous experiences with other media, cultures grown to saturation in these media retain remain viable for periods of weeks to months of storage in the refrigerator, retaining their titer (typically greater than 10^{10} /ml) and ability to grow subcultures with little or no lag.

In paragraph [0030], please replace the final two lines as follows:

growth to higher density before the level of induction caused by 1% lactose became high enough to kill the cells. Almost all of these surviving cells had also lost plasmid.

In paragraph [0034], please replace the third (3rd) sentence as follows:

The term auto-induction is used to refer to the growth pattern of inducible expression strains in lactose-inducer-containing media, where growth is essentially normal in the early stages, with little or no induction, and expression of the target protein is turned on automatically at a later stage of growth, with no intervention.

Please replace the last sentence of paragraph [0039] as follows:

Thus, one would not expect auto-induction to work in T7 expression strains that carry mutations in the lac permease (and therefore because such cells cannot take up lactose), nor in cells that carry mutations in β-galactosidase that prevent the transgalactosidation reaction which generates the true repressor.

Please replace the first sentence of paragraph [0043] as follows:

In contrast to conventional inductions by addition of either IPTG or lactose, where growth of each culture must be monitored and inducer (IPTG or lactose) added at the proper time, auto-inducing cultures are simply inoculated and grown to saturation.

In Table I, please replace the top column heading line of the table as follows:

Na₂HPO₄ KH₂PO₄ NH₄Cl (NH₄)₂SO₄ Na₂SO₄ MgSO₄ FeCl₃ metl ZY 18aa Glyc Gluc Lact Succ